



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

News Release

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

WILLIAM J. AILA JR., CHAIRPERSON
Phone: (808) 587-0320
Fax: (808) 587-0390

For Immediate Release October 29, 2012

ARBOR DAY PLANT SALE IS NOV. 2 AT PUA LOKE NURSERY

Event marks 44 years since first plant sale by DOFAW

LIHU‘E – The Department of Land and Natural Resources’ Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) welcomes the Kaua‘i community to its annual plant sale in celebration of Hawai‘i’s Arbor Day, on **Friday, November 2, 2012** from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Pua Loke Nursery, 4396D Pua Loke Road.

Since 1968, local floral enthusiasts and rare plant collectors look forward to the annual event, especially since DOFAW began offering federally listed threatened and endangered plants, native to Hawai‘i and used for the State’s conservation programs.

“Planting a native plant celebrates the forests that are fundamental to our way of life. Hawaii’s native forests provide the islands’ water supply by absorbing large quantities of moisture from passing clouds and rainfall,” said William J. Aila, Jr., DLNR chairperson.

“These watershed forests reduce greenhouse gases and flooding, erosion, and siltation of reefs and fisheries. Native plants also have cultural significance, regarded as elders and ancestors, or used for medicines, offerings, or other material needs,” Aila added.

This year’s anniversary sale will feature several native hibiscus species that are rare and endemic to Kaua‘i and the Hawaiian Islands: for example, the delicate red flowered **Koki‘o ‘ula** (*Hibiscus clayi*) historically found in dry forests of Nounou and Anahola mountains; our state flower **Ma‘o hau hele** (*Hibiscus brackenridgei*) known for its brilliant yellow blossoms, and a rare variety of **Koki‘o ke‘o ke‘o** (*Hibiscus waimeae ssp hanarae*) that grows in moist forests of Limahuli, Hanakapi‘ai and Kalihiwai.

Its fragrant white flower is notably smaller in size than its more common counterpart *Hibiscus waimeae ssp waimeae* that is endemic to Waimea Canyon, and also available for purchase. Another featured rare plant is **‘Ohai** (*Sesbania tomentosa*) known for its salmon to scarlet colored butterfly-shaped flowers prized by lei-makers. This handsome shrub is ideal for use in xeriscaping because of its ability to tolerate drought like conditions. In the wild it can be found growing in coastal sand dunes.

Some of our more common native plants available for purchase include **Loulu** (*Pritchardia minor*) a native fan palm small in stature making it ideal as a backyard tree; low-elevation **Koa** (*Acacia koa*) favored for its beautiful hardwood and light green canopy; **Wili Wili** (*Erythrina sandwicense*) a native tree commonly found in lowland dry forests areas on the leeward side, its bright reddish-orange seeds can be strung into handsome lei. Native wetland sedge, **Makaloa** (*Cyperus laevigatus*), the coastal beach pea **Nanea** (*Vigna marina*), our Hawaiian cotton plant **Ma'o** (*Gossypium tomentosum*) and an assortment of other native plants will be on sale as well.

Also featured are two important Hawaiian medicinal plants **Noni** (*Morinda citrifolia*) and **Mamaki** (*Pipturus species*).

In addition to encouraging the use of native species in home landscaping, DOFAW will offer two non-invasive exotic ornamentals cherished for their fragrant flowers used in lei making: **Pua kenikeni** (*Fagraea berteroana*) and the Tahitian gardenia **Tiare** (*Gardenia taitensis*), both local favorites.

This is a great opportunity for kama'āina to support DOFAW's programs on Kaua'i and bring home plants to cultivate a native garden.

Prices begin at **\$3.00** and up, depending on size and species. For more information, please call 274-3433.

#

For more information news media may contact:

Deborah L. Ward
DLNR Public information specialist
Phone: (808) 587-0320